

To whom it may concern!

As a taxpaying and voting citizen of this country, which has been embarrassing enough in its activities this last year, I am definitely opposed to allowing huge media companies to consolidate in one media market. I am very concerned about the effect this may have on the diversity of news and information that the public would receive in my small town, rural area, as well as further contributing to the sheep like, knee jerk responses of the American public.

Media mergers are decreasing coverage of local political races, local small businesses, and local events. There are only a third as many owners of newspapers and TV stations as there were in the 1970s (about 600 now; over 1,500 then). It's harder and harder for Americans to find out what's going on in their own back yards.

Thinking Americans do not want one or two big companies acting as gatekeepers and controlling our access to news and entertainment. The airwaves explicitly belong to us -- the American people. We allow media companies to use them in exchange for their assurance that they're serving the public interest, and it's the FCC's job to make sure that's so. For the future of American journalism, and for the preservation of a diverse and local media, we expect the FCC to hold to its mission.

Yours in a free and educated society,

Teresa Allen

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